

## **AGREEMENT TO SUPPORT THE STATE-FEDERAL JOINT PIPELINE OFFICE**

### **A. PURPOSE**

The State-Federal Joint Pipeline Office (JPO) was created in March 1990. It was created to provide full partnership for State and Federal agencies in monitoring of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS). The JPO is an appropriate intergovernmental structure to carry out the multi-agency mission of safely moving oil and gas to market while ensuring the protection of public health and safety and the environment.

The purpose of this agreement is to perpetuate a more formal and effective intergovernmental partnership to provide coordinated State and Federal permitting; monitoring; enforcement; public interaction, and preparedness planning activities on TAPS and other common carrier oil and gas pipelines in Alaska. This Agreement encourages and provides a mechanism for coordinated intergovernmental action in regulating and overseeing pipelines within each agency's laws and regulations. The agreement also provides a framework for enhanced public input and participation in TAPS oversight.

### **B. OBJECTIVES**

Objectives of this Agreement are as follows:

- provide executive level coordination and oversight of the JPO;
- provide central accountable leadership within the JPO;
- assure an inter/intra-agency coordinated work program for appropriate agencies to issue permits, grants, and leases; monitor pipelines; provide enforcement; and
- encourage public participation through this council and other appropriate means.

All signatories agree to work cooperatively to ensure pipeline integrity, public safety, and environmental protection. This will be accomplished by the JPO providing a single point of contact whenever possible and appropriate. This single point will provide consistency and coordination for permitting; oversight and enforcement; preparedness planning; and accountable agency leadership.

## C. PROCEDURES

To accomplish the objectives, an Executive Council has been established to oversee the JPO. Members of the Executive Council are:

- Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Commissioner
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Commissioner
- Alaska Department of Labor and Workplace Development, Commissioner
- Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities, Commissioner
- Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Commissioner
- Alaska Governor's Office, Division of Governmental Coordination, Director
- U.S. Department of Defense, Army Corps of Engineers, District Engineer
- U.S. Department of the Interior
  - Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Director
- U.S. Department of Transportation
  - U.S. Coast Guard, Commander, Seventeenth District
  - Office of Pipeline Safety, Administrator
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
  - Assistant Regional Administrator for Alaska

Additional State or Federal agencies with authorities over pipelines may be added.

The Executive Council will be Co-Chaired by the Alaska State Director, Bureau of Land Management and the Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources. The Executive Council shall meet at minimum twice per year. To encourage public participation, meetings shall be held in communities along the TAPS right-of-way on a rotational basis. It may meet at other times at the call of the Co-Chairperson(s), or a majority of members. The meetings will be scheduled to fit the budget processes of the State and Federal governments. If a member cannot attend a meeting, an alternate may attend.

The JPO shall be headed by a State Pipeline Coordinator appointed by the Governor and an Authorized Officer appointed by the Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Director. The two positions shall serve as Co-Directors for the Executive Council.

Each member of the Executive Council having statutory responsibilities over any aspect of pipelines agrees to appoint a point of contact person to act as liaison: or to appoint an authorized officer to represent the member on all matters pertaining to pipelines. These matters shall include pre-construction, construction, operation, maintenance, and termination of pipeline activities. Insofar as possible, the member's designated appointee shall be located within the JPO in Anchorage, Alaska.

The Executive Council will actively pursue opportunities to improve the operation of the JPO. These may include areas such as training in each other's authorities, delegation to

their representative the authority to enforce terms, conditions, and stipulations of each lease/grant, permit or other authorization issued by their agency, and clarification of roles and responsibilities.

The JPO shall annually develop a proposed fiscal year work plan for the Executive Council's review and approval. Degree of involvement in the work plan will vary from agency to agency depending on a variety of factors and will be subject to annual revision.

The Executive Council meetings will be open to the public and conducted in a manner to facilitate public participation. The Executive Council will solicit and adopt procedures to improve information exchange and involvement with the public.

The Executive Council will actively develop operational directives to carry out the purposes of this agreement in the most efficient manner.

The Executive Council may adopt rules necessary for the performance of its duties.

#### D. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

Nothing in this Agreement shall abrogate statutory responsibility or authority of any agency. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as obligating any agency to the expenditure funds in excess of appropriations authorized by law or otherwise commit any agency to actions for which it lacks statutory authority.

This Agreement shall be reviewed by all parties three years following its' signing, and every three years thereafter. Any party to this agreement may withdraw at any time by providing written notice to the Executive Council Co-Chairs.

**AGREED TO:**

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Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

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Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner, Alaska Department of Labor and Workplace Development

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Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner, Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities

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Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner, Alaska Department of Natural Resources

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Director  
Alaska Governor's Office, Division of Governmental Coordination

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
District Engineer  
U.S. Department of Defense, Army Corps of Engineers

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Alaska State Director  
U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Commander, U.S. Coast Guard, Seventeenth District  
U.S. Department of Transportation

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Administrator, Office of Pipeline Safety  
U.S. Department of Transportation

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant Regional Administrator for Alaska  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

